



# HOMELESSNESS

Local homeless shelter creates paths to success for struggling community members

Emilia Muniz | Elon News Network | @emiliacmuniz

DAVID PIRTLE NEVER THOUGHT homelessness could happen to him. In fact, he said, it “came out of the blue.”

“I had a decent job, I had a nice apartment,” Pirtle said. “I thought I was doing pretty well.”

Unlike many battles with homelessness that begin during adolescence, Pirtle’s story started in his twenties. At that age he started developing severe symptoms of a schizoaffective disorder — affecting his mood, memory and behavior — and lacked the necessary resources to find

treatment.

“I didn’t realize that these symptoms were developing until they overwhelmed me and when I was 29 years old. I lost that job and then I lost my nice apartment,” Pirtle said. “I didn’t think about homelessness as a circumstance, I thought about homelessness as a character trait. ... It couldn’t happen to me because I’m not one of those homeless people.”

See **Homelessness** | pg. 6

## Search committee for next director of campus police finalized

Dennis Franks will end his seven-year Elon career in December to become the police chief in Stallings, NC

Anton L. Delgado  
Managing Editor | @antonldelgado

Elon University has started the search process for the next director of Campus Safety and Police. Dennis Franks, who currently holds the position, will be leaving at the end of December to become the chief of police in Stallings, North Carolina — approximately two hours from Elon, just south of Charlotte.

A 10-person search committee, which includes faculty, staff, a student and a member of campus police, has been formed. Committee Chair and associate vice president for human resources Kelli Shuman, and Bob Shea, vice president for business, finance and technology, are leading the search.

According to Shea, the committee is making “the final touches on the position profile and job posting.” He hopes to go public with the posting before Thanksgiving Break, which begins after classes on Friday, Nov. 22.

Candidates will submit applications via Elon University’s Human Resources website. Shea said the committee plans to have two to four finalists for the position come to campus and meet with staff, faculty, student and senior staff groups.

Shea hopes to interview a pool of candidates in early to mid-January and make an offer by the end of that month.



Dennis Franks

See **Police Chief** | pg. 8

## Town of Elon announces its next town manager

After a seven-month search, the former town manager of Topsham, Maine is selected to fill the position at Elon

Mackenzie Wilkes  
Elon News Network | @macwilkes

Richard Roedner has been hired as the town of Elon’s new town manager. The announcement was made by Mayor Jerry Tolley via press release.

“There were over 25 applicants for the manager position. Our process was thorough and we believe Mr. Roedner is the best choice,” Tolley said via a press release. “He has a proven track record of achieving the goals put before him and we are excited to have him on our team.”

Roedner is expected to begin the position on Jan. 6, 2020. The search began after former town manager Richard White III announced his resignation last May.

The town has been operating under interim town manager Bob Morgan since July.

The town manager oversees town staff and is responsible for running the daily operations of Elon.

Roedner is coming to Elon from Topsham, Maine, where he served as town manager for more than five years and planning director for 11 years.

He said that his background in planning will inform his decisions in Elon. Roedner has over 30 years of experience in municipal and county-level government

See **Manager** | pg. 3



Richard Roedner



Richard White III



Bob Morgan



**NEWS • PAGE 8**

First semester of National Pan-Hellenic Council SGA senator



**LIFESTYLE • PAGE 10**

The Motorsports club builds skills and community



**SPECIAL SECTION**

The path to March begins for both basketball teams



# THE PENDULUM

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**The Pendulum**  
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## CORRECTIONS

In the story “Mixing up Martial Arts” freshman María Torres’ position was mistaken. She is a member of the club.

## COMIC

### ICE COLD



COMIC SAMS – SAM POROZOK

## GAMES

**How to Play:** Guess the missing word in the five clues, then find them in the word search below. Words can be found backwards, diagonal, etc.

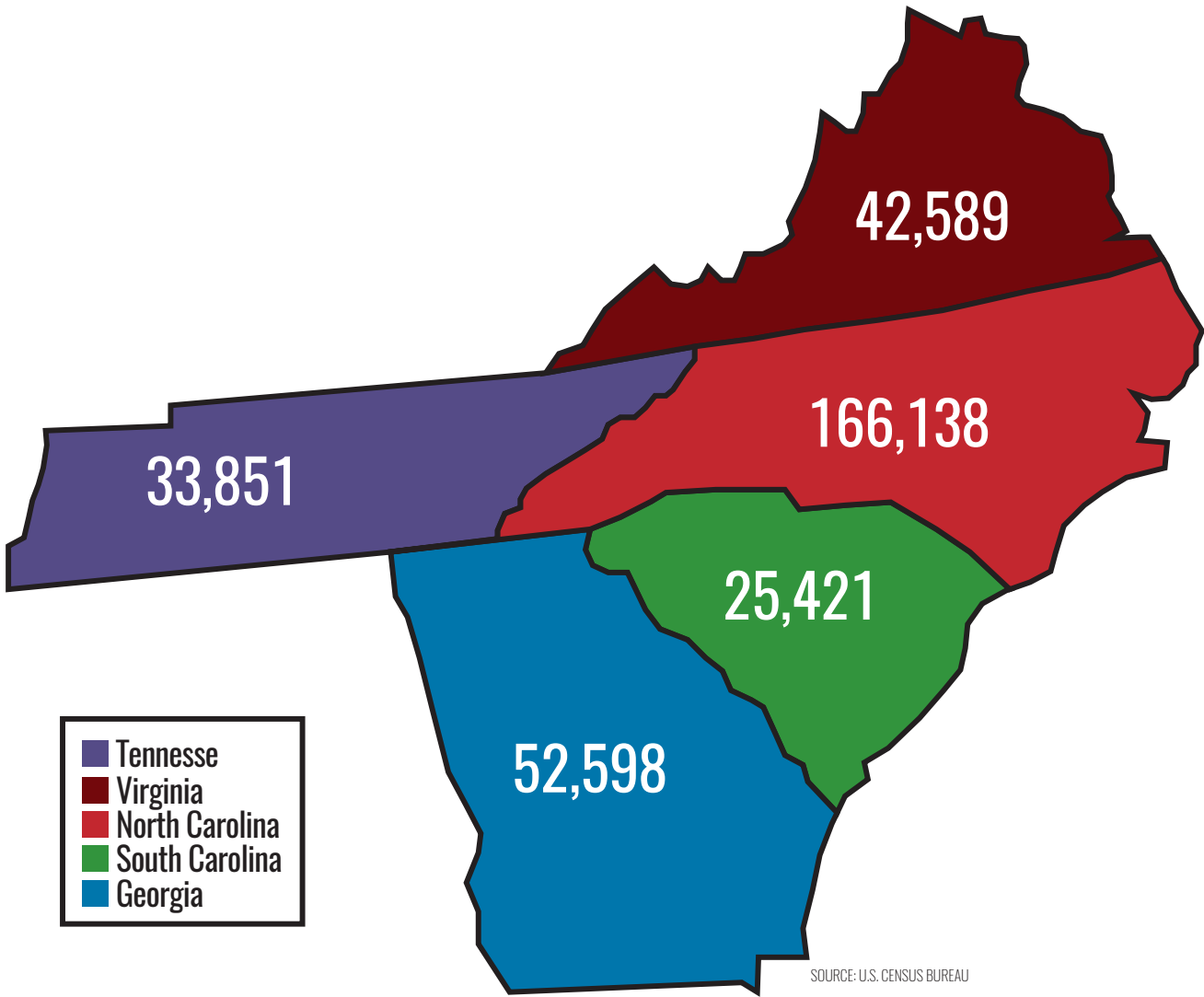
- The end of November marks the end of \_\_\_\_\_ American History Month. *See Page 3 for answer.*
- Allied Churches works to combat the persistent issue of \_\_\_\_\_ in Alamance County. *See Page 6 for answer.*
- Elon University has started the search for the next director of campus \_\_\_\_\_. *See Page 8 for answer.*
- The Elon \_\_\_\_\_ Club brings students with a passion for cars together. *See Page 10 for answer.*
- Britt Bradford opened Father and Sons, which sells bratwurst and \_\_\_\_\_. *See Page 11 for answer.*

M Y G Q H E A A U N S E O G M D G Q  
M D G Y L F V G Y O D M I C W K Y R  
J A Z D P Z J Z R B J S S B L M S I  
F R A N K F U R T E R V V L D T R J  
S H O F J N L R S D L Y I P Q Q U J  
G S D T M S N A C I R E M A W E J B  
C U S D M V J A L X W P O L I C E O  
C D G C V M P K F C Z W M W L D V C  
R S S E N S S E L E M O H X N G I B  
L K I N R E Z B L L H X N S M T T M  
A F H R Q E N V E T J U M W L K A J  
C J R Q Z G G Q A V U M W Y A O N U  
M O T O R S P O R T N Z Y F T D D R

## CALENDAR: NOV. 20 TO NOV. 26

<div>IMMIGRANT REALITIES   5 P.M. TO 6 P.M. Moseley Center, Stovall Conference Room</div> <div>20</div>	<div>TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE   6 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M. Speaker's Corner</div> <div>20</div>	<div>BOOK DRIVE FOR ALAMANCE ACHIEVES   8:30 A.M. TO 10:30 A.M. Moseley Center</div> <div>21</div>	<div>ZUMBA CLASS   4 P.M. TO 5:30 P.M. Koury Studio 6</div> <div>21</div>	<div>FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT   5:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M. South Campus Lacrosse Field</div> <div>21</div>
<div>INNOVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION   10 A.M. TO 1 P.M. Lakeside Meeting Room</div> <div>22</div>	<div>ELECTRIC ENSEMBLE FALL CONCERT   7:30 P.M. TO 9 P.M. McCrary Theatre, Center for the Arts</div> <div>22</div>	<div>MEN'S BASKETBALL VS MANHATTAN   4 P.M. Schar Center</div> <div>23</div>	<div>WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS WAKE FOREST   7 P.M. Schar Center</div> <div>25</div>	<div>GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT ORIENTATION   4 P.M. TO 6 P.M. Global Commons 301</div> <div>26</div>

# Native Americans explore Carolina roots



## Native American/Alaska Native Population

### Elon University recognizes Native American Heritage Month

Lauren Singles  
Elon News Network | @lauren\_singles

As a member of the Cherokee nation, freshman Lakota Grindstaff found a sense of community at Elon University through its year-old Native American Student Association.

At Elon, seven undergraduate and six graduate students identify as American Indian according to last year's Elon University Fact Book. Grindstaff grew up in western North Carolina, which is home to the largest Native American population in the state.

"It was just kind of surprising to see how low the population is here," Grindstaff said. "It does feel a bit small in comparison to the west."

Despite the small percentage of Native American students at Elon, Grindstaff feels her culture is supported on campus, which is currently celebrating Native American Heritage Month, a nationally recognized event.

"It's really important for people to understand that these communities have long, clearly documented histories, and that the state of North Carolina has formally recognized their legitimacy going back to the 18th century," said Clyde Ellis, professor of history, an expert in Native American culture and affairs, who has studied pow wow culture in North Carolina.

The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, a state-recognized tribe, is located in Alamance County. The Guilford

Native American Association, a state-recognized organization, is located in Guilford County.

While Beverly Payne, a member of the OBSN, appreciates the month, she worries that Native American culture is only recognized in November.

"The bulk of our attention is Native American Month, and it's not like we weren't here before Native American Month," Payne said. "We don't get a lot of attention from the state, if any. I'm sure that there are other things that could be done, but you have to look at it in this instance since we aren't federally recognized we're just state recognized."

Federally recognized tribes are eligible for greater funding and levels of self-governance that state-recognized tribes are not privy to, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The East Band of Cherokee Indians, whose reservation is west of Asheville, is the only federally recognized tribe in North Carolina. Only eight tribes, including the Occaneechi Tribe,

are recognized by the state of North Carolina.

According to the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, more than 229,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives live in the state — one of the largest indigenous populations on the East Coast.

In the mountains of the Cherokee reservation is a small cabin that Grindstaff considers a home.

Grindstaff often visits the reservation where some of her family lives. Over the years, Grindstaff says she has seen an increase in tourism.

"I like it that people are interested in the culture and want to learn about it, but I don't like how some of them get drawn there by inaccurate stuff," Grindstaff said. "Educate yourself more and be able to understand it, not just from the way that it's portrayed."

This portrayal is something that Ellis said he believes could create incorrect assumptions about Native American culture.

"It's crucial for people to understand that these are fully functioning, culturally viable modern nations with long histories, and with deep cultural roots that have not been forgotten

or ignored," Ellis said.

In 2018, President Connie Book announced the creation of the Commemoration Committee — now named the Committee on Elon History and Memory — whose goal, according to the website, is to "explore questions related to historical memory and collective identity."

Professor Charles Irons, chair of the committee and the Department of History and Geography, explains that they are committed to discussing the issue of land acknowledgement with local tribes.

Although Elon currently does not have anything definitive in place, Irons says that meetings are taking place this week. As of now, the committee's report is set to release in the spring.

Over 200 years before Elon's founding, Alamance County was dominated by the Occaneechi tribe.

Other organizations, alongside NASA, are working to expand education about Native American culture.

The 2021 cohort of Periclean Scholars, a national program focused on civic engagement and social change, is planning its second trip to the Oglala Lakota Children's Justice Center on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

"I believe that the more we can understand the struggles a people go through, the better we can understand our own struggles and our approaches to dealing with difficulties," said cohort mentor Bud Warner, associate professor of human service studies. "The Lakota are a people with a long heritage and noble ideals that, like other Native Americans, have been dealt with less than honorably by the majority culture."

# Town manager of Elon selected after search

## MANAGER | from cover

Part of Roedner's approach to this new position is making sure the "community [knows] we are working for them."

Roedner said he has been to Elon twice. He visited Elon for the first time around Labor Day, when he interviewed for the position. He came to Elon again in October for a second round of interviews. Roedner said he and his wife have been looking to move and they "loved" downtown Elon.

“RICHARD WAS REALLY THE ONLY PERSON WHO MENTIONED COMING INTO ELON, SPENDING TIME IN ELON AND GETTING TO KNOW SOME OF THE PEOPLE IN ELON.”

EMILY SHARPE  
ALDERWOMAN

Alderwoman Emily Sharpe said Roedner stood out during the interview process because of his interest in the town and its residents.

"Richard was really the only person who mentioned coming into Elon, spending time in Elon and getting to know some of the people in Elon," Sharpe said.

Roedner said that Elon University adds "resources" to the town, which benefit the community and makes it more "dynamic."

According to Roedner, the university brings a vibrancy to the community through their students and faculty as well as the events they host.

The university was involved in selecting Roedner to be town manager. Bob Shea, vice president for business finance and technology, was a member of the town manager search committee.

Shea and the committee members were responsible for reviewing resumes, interviewing and recommending finalists to the board. Of the 25 applicants, Roedner was one of the three finalists.

SCAN TO SEE THE ONLINE TIMELINE

The online story features complementing multimedia elements highlighting the town manager search committee



ENN.IM/TOWNMANAGER



Sophomore Jacob Earl reads stories attached to the backpacks of Breslin Wiley and Harrison Durant, two Elon University students who died by suicide in 2017. Their backpacks were donated to Active Minds' Send Silence Packing exhibit on Wednesday, Nov. 13. It was the first time the exhibit had come to campus.



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

Members of Elon University's Chorale sing in McCrory Theatre during their fall concert on Thursday, Nov. 14.



JAKOB REUTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University's women's basketball bench celebrates during the team's second-half comeback against Appalachian State University in Schar Center on Wednesday, Nov. 13. The Phoenix won 67-66.



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER





Elon University sophomore Matt Fowler waves to the crowd during his a cappella performance of “The Climb” by Miley Cyrus in Whitley Auditorium during Rip-Chord’s Winter Concert on Friday, Nov. 15.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



LUKE JOHNSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon University’s Jazz Ensemble prepare to perform during the Fall Concert on Saturday, Nov. 16.



JAKOB REUTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Eliza Spear performs at College Street Taphouse on Thursday, Nov. 14.



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

Avid band enthusiast Jon Dooley, vice president of student life, conducts “Irish Tune from a County Derry” with the Phoenix Winds, Elon University’s wind ensemble band, in McCrory Theatre on Thursday, Nov. 14. This was Dooley’s first time conducting with the band. When Dooley was in college, he played the trumpet and French horn, and considered majoring in music.



# Local organizations and churches COMBAT HOMELESSNESS

HOMELESS | from cover

It wasn't until Pirtle found himself "train-hopping" around the country, eating day-old bagels in New York and living on a park bench in Washington D.C. that he realized the severity of his homelessness.

"If you had seen me on the street on the park bench where I ended up settling, you probably would've crossed the street to avoid me. I was filthy, I was stinky, I had a bag full of newspapers with crazy writing on them, I was talking to invisible people," Pirtle said.

Pirtle shared his homelessness journey with Elon students at a panel discussion representing the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington D.C. and emphasized the importance of sympathizing with the homeless.

"When you see people like that, we have a tendency to write them off or just say 'that's a shame, somebody should do something about that,'" Pirtle said. "But inside every one of those people is someone like

“

I NEVER THOUGHT IN MY WILDEST IMAGINATION, THAT I WOULD BE CONSIDERED A HOMELESS PERSON.

**CASSANDRA STATON**

NATIONAL COALITION OF THE HOMELESS

me who just hasn't gotten the help that they need."

When Pirtle was arrested for shoplifting, he was let out on the conditions of staying at the local shelter and seeing a psychiatrist. Though Pirtle said the shelter conditions were harsh, with bed bugs, body lice and drug dealers, he found that the shelter "gave him some structure in his life."

With the help of therapy, getting involved in advocacy and eventually finding his place with the National Coalition for the Homeless, Pirtle has been off the streets for 13 years.

Unfortunately, Pirtle's story is not unique. Just as Pirtle's mental illness left him homeless, people fall into the cycle of homelessness, "often through no fault of their own," said Kelvin Lassiter, another panelist from the National Coalition for the Homeless in D.C.

Lassiter said, "It's not how you start, it's how you finish." Allied Churches of Alamance County, the local homeless shelter in Burlington, said it is helping their homeless residents reach their finish

lines.

From providing hot meals and warm beds to conducting mock interviews for residents seeking jobs, Allied Churches said it is taking steps toward giving the homeless community of Burlington a second chance at success. The organization takes in a range of clients, from single men and women to families, and gives each case a set number of days to live in the shelter as well as receive the guidance they need to get themselves and their families back on their feet.

During the panel discussion, Pirtle said many people experiencing homelessness can be reluctant to go to shelters because "not all of the shelters out there are great places."

Case manager at Allied Churches, Sabrina Corbett, said shelters like those described by Pirtle are not hard to find near Burlington. According to Corbett, residents who go to Allied Churches from Durham are surprised by the clean and safe conditions of the shelter as compared to the ones they had previously experienced.

"We pride ourselves on keeping this place clean and safe, that's our number one thing," Corbett said.

Data from an economic snapshot done by the North Carolina Justice Center in May 2018 found that in Alamance County, 52.9% of residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing costs. This skews the debt-to-income ratio, resulting in a financial struggle for over half of the county's residents. And for 14.4% of Alamance county residents, this financial struggle has resulted in poverty, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Residents at Allied Churches are given strict wake-up and "lights out" hours to help them shape their schedules and take advantage of all the resources provided at the shelter. The facility leads career workshops in their resource center and helps residents to look for jobs, write applications and practice interviews. Residents can also take on jobs around the facility, allowing them to develop their work experience and earn some extra money.

According to Pirtle, the initiatives taken at Allied Churches will most effectively help people to break the cycle of homelessness.

Pirtle said he sees little success in trying to "fix everything that is wrong with someone and then pronouncing them ready for housing," especially when it is exceedingly difficult to be considered "ready for housing" when you're living on a park bench or in one of



Volunteers during the "Women's Build for Habitat for Humanity" raise the walls of a home in Burlington on May 1, 2019.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AUDREY HARRIS

these "madhouse shelters," as Pirtle describes them from his own experience.

"Getting people into the security of a home, with case management and wrap-around services to help them deal with the issues that led them to homelessness in the first place gives them a foundation so that they can rebuild their lives," Pirtle said.

## Preventing homelessness

At Elon, some students are taking their own initiatives toward change. Arianna Shahin, a service captain for Elon's chapter for Habitat for Humanity sees homelessness as a large issue in Alamance County, "one that is often ignored."

Through being an active volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, Shahin feels she has become more "cultured on the subject matter" of homelessness and more knowledgeable about the struggles facing communities.

"As a result of being involved with Habitat for Humanity, I feel as if I am stepping out of our Elon bubble to learn and grow as an individual within our community," Shahin said. Shahin mentioned the rewarding aspects of building homes for others and how important it is to make a difference in others' lives.

"Seeing how happy the family was to have a home was proof that the work we do truly makes a difference," Shahin said.

Campus Kitchen at Elon University is another group

supporting change by hosting a series of events for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week including the "Faces of Homelessness" panel with speakers from the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington D.C.

"I never thought in my wildest imagination that I would be considered a homeless person," said Cassandra Staton from the NCH. But Staton wants people to know that homelessness can happen to anyone and it's important for members of the community to see homeless people as just that: people.

"The only real difference between someone who's homeless and someone who isn't is that they don't have a home," Pirtle said.

Lassiter, Staton and Pirtle encouraged the audience who attended their panel on homelessness to look at homeless people the same way they would anyone else, because one can never know if homelessness may befall them one day.

"Love is one of the kindest things that you can give to a homeless person. Don't look down on them because you don't know what their circumstances are," Staton said.

The panel urged students to make a difference in people's lives because kind actions can always have a greater effect on someone's life.

"Quitting is not an option," Lassiter said. He hopes people will not quit on those struggling in their own communities.



Left to right: Volunteers Rosa Hester and Edie Conte serve lunch to the

Dorothy Frost





CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteers at the Allied Churches of Alamance County serve residents their lunch on Tuesday, Nov. 19.



EMILIA MUNIZ | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cassandra Staton speaks to Elon University students about her experiences with homelessness next to Kelvin Lassiter (left) and David Pirtle (right) on Tuesday, Nov. 12.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Reverend Garcia Davis volunteers to serve lunch at the Allied Churches of Alamance County on Tuesday, Nov. 19.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Residents of the Allied Churches of Alamance County on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

BY THE NUMBERS

14

percent of the population of Alamance county lives in poverty, according to the US census.

11

percent of the citizens in Alamance county were homeless in 2012, according to Allied Churches.

9,268

people are homeless on any given night across the state of North Carolina, according to National Alliance to End Homelessness.



# Chief of campus police departs, starting new search

## POLICE CHIEF | from cover

Shea said the characteristics he is looking for in an applicant are integrity, communication, collaboration, a passion for community policing and experience as a police chief.

Senior Maria Ramirez Uribe is the one student representative on the search committee staff and was recommended to the position by Jon Dooley, vice president of student life. She is also a reporter for Elon News Network and has been with the organization since her sophomore year.

“It’s imperative for a student’s perspective to be taken into account, particularly since this role is going to directly affect students,” Ramirez said. “I cannot represent every view and opinion from the student body. However, I will try my best to keep in mind the opinions of students and what they want in a new police chief.”

As the search committee looks for the university’s next chief, Major Doug Dotson will lead the department, which currently employs 21 police officers, 14 community service officers, four communications dispatchers and two traffic division officers, all of whom work full-time.

“My hope is, during this interim period, to be able to continue working toward established departmental goals and to provide an environment for the continuity of daily operations with minimal disruption,” Dotson said. “Our staff is excited to work with whomever is selected to be the next Chief of Police to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.”

This is the second time Dotson will be filling this temporary role.

Franks resigned from his position at Elon in May 2018, taking a job as the vice president



ANTON L. DELGADO | MANAGING EDITOR

of protective services for Bank of America. Franks then requested and was approved to return to his Elon post in July of the same year, only two months after his departure.

During his tenure as chief, Franks said one of his proudest accomplishments was getting the department accredited.

“My former chief and mentor always said, ‘No one person is more important than the entire department.’ I have always taken that to heart and have tried to lead that way,” Franks said. “Accreditation was a three-year effort that took everyone to successfully achieve. If everyone had not been looking at what was important for the whole department, we would not have been successful in our efforts. I know that the men and women of this department have been part of setting this high standard and will continue working to make it

a better place.”

Before coming to the town of Elon in 2012, Franks was the deputy chief for special services for the police department in Pekin, Illinois. He replaced Chuck Gantos as police chief.

Franks’ move to the Stallings Police Department was announced through an online statement from the town.

Alex Sewell, Stallings’ town manager, said Franks “exhibited the characteristics essential in the police chief.”

“I’m excited to get started working for the citizens of Stallings as the police chief of an already excellent department,” Franks said in the statement. “I’m looking forward to building strong community relationships and working with elected officials, staff and citizens.”

## Police Chief Search Committee

- KELLI SHUMAN**  
Chair of the Search Committee and Associate Vice President for Human Resources
- BOB SHEA**  
Vice president for business, finance and technology
- VALERIE CHEEK**  
Project Manager for Business, Finance and Technology
- KELLY BLECKWELDER**  
Chief of the Town of Elon Police Department
- BLAKE TILLOTSON**  
Captain with the Elon University Campus Safety and Police
- RANDY WILLIAMS**  
Associate Vice President for Inclusive Excellence
- FAITH SHEARER**  
Associate Athletics Director
- JANA LYNN PATTERSON**  
Associate Vice President for Student Life
- TONY WEAVER**  
Chair of the Department of Sport Management Senior
- MARIA RAMIREZ URIBE**  
Senior

# SGA adds National Pan-Hellenic Senator position this fall

NPHC President Arianne Payne was appointed to the inaugural position to increase representation

**Leila Jackson**  
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

This fall, the Student Government Association added a National Pan-Hellenic Council senator position, which was filled by senior Arianne Payne. This position was added in the hope of better representing the interests of historically black sororities and fraternities at Elon University. In the past, Greek life was only represented by an Interfraternity Council senator and a Panhellenic senator.

The Organization Council is composed of senators who speak on behalf of different organizations. According to alumni and former SGA executive president Kenneth Brown, SGA has struggled with how to represent Greek life.

“Last year in my administration we were talking about the organization council and given, with respect to others, that Greek organizations [are] a big part of the social fabric and each council is different in their functions, we decided for each council to have their own rep,” Brown said in a Facebook message.

Although Greek life is largely represented at Elon, there is still ignorance around NPHC organizations, Payne said. In addition to her new position, Payne is NPHC president and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Payne said even though NPHC is recognized as a council on campus, more can be done to bring recognition to its different organizations. Payne said she hopes to educate people about NPHC and to potentially create bylaws recognizing the differences in how each of its organizations operate.

According to Payne, one of the major differences between NPHC organizations is true discretion in the process of joining.

“It’s a very personal process, you choosing whatever organization you want to be in,

expressing interest and then going about joining. Whereas with maybe Panhellenic or Interfraternity Council, it’s a little bit more on the front end, you’re fully expressing interest in everyone, just getting to know people,” Payne said. “With NPHC, it’s slightly different in that you do your research, narrow down one organization that you see yourself in and then go about expressing interest.”

Senior Fredrick Evans, who is a part of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. said this discretion can lead those who are unaware of the cultural history behind NPHC sororities and fraternities to view them as a “secret society.”

“We have roles of discretion in our intake processes and the work that we do, but at the end of the day, we’re a Greek organization, and all Greek organizations essentially are supposed to operate the same and be community advocates,” Evans said.

According to Evans, numbers are another issue because black students are a minority at Elon and NPHC chapter sizes are small. There are four NPHC fraternities and three sororities on campus, with the average chapter size being approximately 10 students, according to Elon’s 2018-2019 Fraternity and Sorority Community Report. In contrast, 67 students are in IFC chapters and 220 in Panhellenic chapters.

“I think we struggle with sometimes ... just getting ourselves to make sure that we’re reaching out to the broader Elon community, but in reality, a lot of our programming, however, is for the minority community, the black community, which is a small segment of the population at Elon,” Evans said.

Evans said he gives credit to Payne for being the first NPHC senator and hopes the position will continue to be filled in the coming years.

“I just hope that is something that will continue,” Evans said. “If that’s what we’re going to do, that means we’re going to have somebody in that position every year following it. Hopefully we’ll have people to step up and be a part of that role and have a voice for NPHC represented.”



LIAM O’CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Arianne Payne filled the role of National Pan-Hellenic Council senator for the SGA.



# OPINIONS



ILLUSTRATION BY SAM POROZOK

## The importance of civil engagement and service work: it's all about impact



**Ashlyn DeLoughy**  
Contributor

Any amount of volunteer work does wonders for the community

Even before coming to Elon University, civic engagement was a huge part of my life. No matter where you are in the world, community service teaches people compassion and understanding on real-world issues. It gives people the opportunity to act on something they're passionate about. There's also no time limit to service work. People can volunteer as much or as little as they want and still make an impact on someone else's life.

I grew up doing Relay for Life, a community-based fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. At a young age, I was surrounded by the effects of fundraising, creating awareness and supporting cancer survivors; including some of my own family members, neighbors and friends.

In high school, I got involved with volunteering for Masonicare, an assisted living program. I was able to make extraordinary memories with extraordinary people, including some old enough to have seen John F. Kennedy become president or who were drafted during the Vietnam war.

Additionally, I led a Unified Sports team for my high school. Unified Sports is an athletic program for students with disabilities. In this, I saw students of all ages achieve what they thought to be impossible.

Then, tragedy struck my hometown of Newton, Connecticut. A shooter killed 26 people, including 20 children, at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

After this, I understood the importance of political activism and joined the Junior Newtown Action Alliance, an organization of high school students who work tirelessly

to end gun violence across the country.

The organizations I joined surrounded me with brilliant energy, which is essential for civic engagement our democracy. Civic engagement has a direct impact on various communities across the nation. I couldn't imagine my life any other way.

Through my experiences with service, I've learned valuable life lessons I wouldn't have had otherwise. I've learned a dollar can go a long way, whether it's for medical research or to fund a protest. I've learned how being in someone else's company and listening to them can create moments both parties cherish forever.

This is absolutely something that Elon students should be taking advantage of, and can very easily.

I currently work as a student writer for the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement. Located in upstairs Moseley, this is the service hub for Elon students and is home to Elon Volunteers, Academic Service-Learning, Service Saturdays, student-led service organizations and post-graduate service opportunities.

In my job, I'm able to speak with those who lead students in changing the Elon community through service. Time and time again, I am reminded of how important this type of work is.

I was given the opportunity to speak with Andrea Sheetz and Ellie Synder, two student coordinators and the Andrew Goodman Foundation ambassadors for Elon Votes. Their passion for democracy is incredible and with their civil engagement efforts over the years, they were able to almost triple voter turnout on Elon's campus between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections. They described to me how special it was to see a student cast their vote for the first time. One vote can create more change than we realize, especially now that voting power is in the hands of our generation.

“

THROUGH MY MANY EXPERIENCES WITH SERVICE, I'VE LEARNED VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD OTHERWISE.

**ASHLYN DELOUGHY**  
CONTRIBUTOR

This is all the more reason to engage in service work and become an active citizen on this campus.

Similarly, I spoke with Emma Greenberg, a student leader for Elon Buddies and coordinator for Special Olympics. Greenberg's passion for helping those with disabilities has really affected the lives of many families across Alamance County. Her work is all about believing in someone and focusing on their abilities rather than their disabilities.

For Greenberg, it's breathtaking to see what people can do when you give them a shot. Her attitude represents the true meaning of service. This is what creates real change in our world.

More recently, I interviewed Jo Gump, the liaison for Elon University and Family Abuse Services. Elon has had an ongoing partnership with FAS for some time now. Through this partnership, Elon students are given the opportunity to create awareness for domestic violence and provide support for survivors in the community. Gump reminded me that all it takes is one person to aid those going through some sort of domestic abuse situation. One person could save someone's life.

The office I work in is extraordinary. It is a hidden gem on this campus. I witness motivated energy every day — an energy that defines what it means to be a global citizen and inspires others to take action on the issues challenging communities in the U.S. and across the globe.

Most people don't know about the work various individuals are doing at Elon, so I encourage students to really think about the difference they could make if they choose to get involved.

You never know what other people are going through. You don't realize the difference service can make on a community until you experience it firsthand. Go out there. Get involved. There's no better time than now.





MICHAEL ROSENBLUM | AUDI A4



BRANDON KARTUZ | BMW M3



TRIPP KNOX | BMW M3



CAMERON BIRTCHER | VW GTI



COLE MCCURDY | SUBURU WRX



CATE MCCA HILL | VW JETTA GLI



JOHN HESSION | BMW 230I

# LIFESTYLE

## More than just a CAR CLUB

Automobile fixes, new vehicles and a sense of community builds student passions for cars

**Miranda Ferrante**  
Elon News Network | @ferrantemiranda

During his freshman year, junior Ayo Onasanya found himself constantly parking next to the same car but never met its driver. Weeks into his sophomore year, Onasanya spent some time at Org Fair chatting with the students behind the Elon Motorsports and Driving Club table and met his future roommate — the man he'd parked next to for a year.

"When it came to find roommates, I thought I might as well find people with similar interests. So now me and two other guys in the club live together," Onasanya said.

With the club, students can combine their knowledge and experience of cars while enjoying camaraderie with other car enthusiasts.

Every Thursday, 25 members of the club gather in the Colonnades parking lot with their vehicles to talk about anything ranging from car parts and new vehicles on the market to how their weeks are going personally and academically.

However, according to the organization's president, Onasanya, the club is more than

a club. It is a place where individuals such as Onasanya have found roommates and a core group of friends.

"It's not very often that you find a group of people that are as crazy about something as you are. I was into cars in high school, but becoming part of the club, I finally found my people," Onasanya said.

The club started with only five members. Since then, it has seen significant growth and has made a presence on campus.

"Elon Motorsports has been a big part of my college experience since day one," sophomore Leo Johnson said. "Cars have always been a hobby of mine, and the ability to connect with other Elon students through the club was really great for me."

Since Onasanya joined the organization last year, he has developed connections and bonded with others over his passion and love for cars.

According to Onasanya, at the club's core is, "a group of guys and girls with a love for cars in one way or another."

Onasanya said seeing a change the club makes in an individual over time is a "rewarding feeling." He said that a members' personal growth can be seen in their cars.

"Cars are reflections of [an individual's]

personality," Onasanya said.

As president, Onasanya mainly acts as a facilitator for the organization and prefers to see himself as equal to the other club members. Onasanya is keen on developing long-term connections with his peers and often has dinner with members of the club.

According to Onasanya, the club holds semesterly events such as Grill and Chill, which provides members with opportunities to hang out and grill food while helping one another fix their cars. Autocross is another event that bring members together over their shared passion.

Onasanya said he finds comfort and value in the ability to bond and discuss a shared hobby and love for cars.

The connections Onasanya has formed in the organization have developed into friendships. Club members have a group of people they can go to, not just for vehicle assistance or conversation, but for personal advice as well.

The club consists of a "chill group of people, always hanging out outside of meetings" Onasanya said.

Onasanya said the term "car" may steer

some away from the club if they feel as though they lack knowledge on the subject.

However, those interested in the Motorsports and Driving Club can have the most basic knowledge of cars and still join.

"Some come [to meetings] with no knowledge of cars and still have fun. Literally anyone can join," Onasanya said.

In addition to learning more about automobiles, Onasanya said the club offers opportunities for novice members to develop their driving skills.

Specifically, they participate in Autocross through the Triad Sports Car Club, where members drive their personal cars on a small closed course.

Onasanya said the purpose of the event is to improve the members' skills behind the wheel.

The club's members also carpool to car shows to view heavily modified cars in convention centers.

Having the opportunity to hang out, drive and bond over one common passion are some of Onasanya's favorite parts of the organization.

According to Onasanya, the club is a "different, yet interesting dynamic," and is a relaxed environment that supports inclusion.

Onasanya said ultimately, the organization intends to create a safe space, where anyone can share their interests, knowledge and love for cars with others and build long lasting relationships.

“  
ELON MOTORSPORTS  
AND DRIVING CLUB  
IS A DIFFERENT YET  
INTERESTING DYNAMIC.  
AYO ONASANYA  
JUNIOR



ELON EATS

# A family frankfurter stand with a bratwurst business

Former New Yorker rolls in a new stand at Elon that sells Northeast-style sausages

Carrie Underwood

Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

After living in New York City for years, Britt Bradford has realized his dream of selling northeastern-style frankfurters and bratwursts to a local North Carolina community.

Bradford is the owner of the “Father and Son Gourmet Weiners & Craft Fixins,” a frankfurter and bratwurst stand that sets up shop in the town of Elon on a weekly basis.

“I lived in New York City for years and there’s a cart on every corner and I thought, ‘there’s not anything like this in North Carolina,’” Bradford said. “I thought there might be a hole to fill in the marketplace.”

Bradford said Elon University’s large New England population was a motivating factor to work in the town.

“The folks from the North, including Wisconsin and the Midwest, they appreciate a really good bratwurst,” Bradford said. He said he wanted to combine northeastern-style sausages with southern cuisine.

“That’s why we have Carolina style, which is homemade chili and homemade coleslaw, as well as Bavarian kraut,” Bradford said. “We really have the toppings covered. I really did think there would be much more of an appreciation at Elon than other state schools.”

Bradford said he wants to make this stand his main priority, but acknowledges the difficulties of finding help to expand his business. He said he hopes to focus on his



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

passion for selling high-quality frankfurters and bratwursts.

However, he said he has no interest in opening up a permanent store.

“I don’t think I would ever want to have a brick and mortar store. I love the idea of being mobile; I can buy a new cart for \$5,000 and be ready to roll,” Bradford said. “I don’t feel like I need to have that. I don’t want it to get so big that I don’t enjoy it. I want to keep it small and continue to do all

the cooking.”

Bradford said it is difficult to have a specific schedule for coming to Elon’s campus. He works with Case Kooy, a local student, who has been with the stand for about a year and a half.

Bradford said he loves working with Kooy, calling him his “cart co-pilot.” He said Kooy is someone he can rely on and is one of the most capable workers he’s known.

According to Kooy, this week will

Case Kooy serves customers at the “Father and Son Gourmet Weiners & Craft Fixins” on Thursday, Nov. 14, during the sausage stand’s fourth visit to the university.

“

I WOULD LOVE TO EVENTUALLY DEDICATE A CART TO ELON. EVERYONE HAS BEEN REALLY KIND AND WELCOMING.

**BRITT BRADFORD**  
FOUNDER OF “FATHER AND SON GOURMET WIENERS & CRAFT FIXINS”

be the cart’s fifth time at Elon.

“We felt like posting up at Elon would be a great idea,” Kooy said.

Bradford said he hopes to continue working around the university catering parties and events.

Bradford said he is lucky to work in the town of Elon and get to know the students and locals.

“I would love to eventually dedicate a cart to Elon,” Bradford said. “Everyone has been really kind and welcoming and we appreciate more than you can imagine. We were a little nervous the first time we came out, but everyone has been just fantastic.”

His dream for the business was for his three sons to ultimately take over the stand, which is why he named the business “Father and Son.”

But soon after opening, he realized his sons had no interest in the wiener business.

V O T E F O R  
B E S T O F  
2 0 2 0

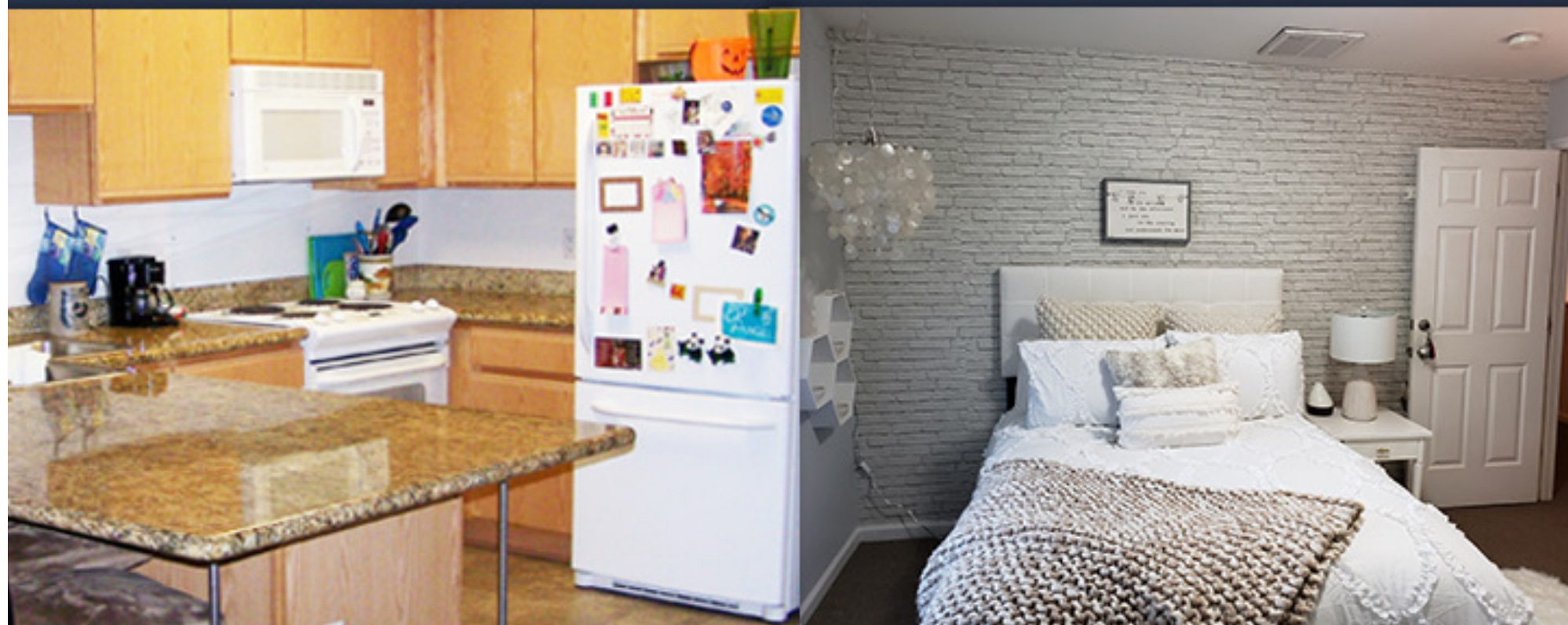


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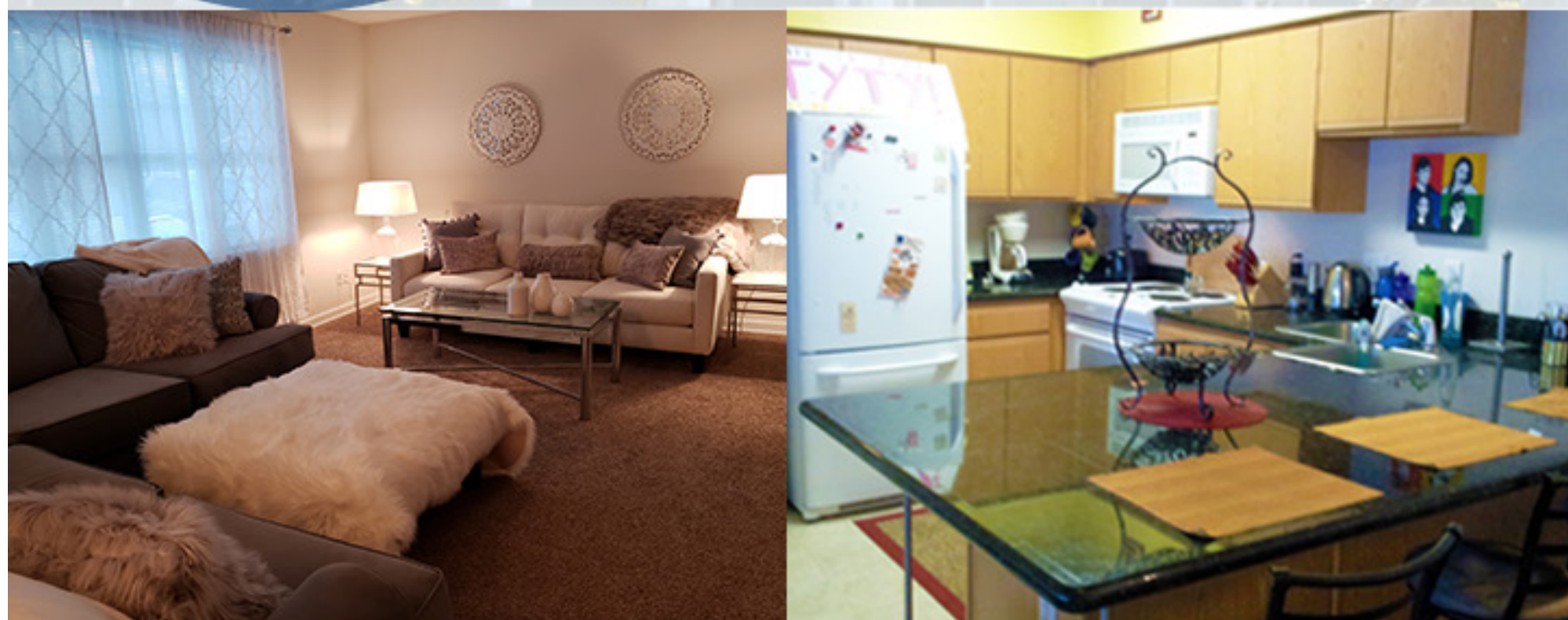


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# BASKETBALL



SAADIA MUNFORD

# SEASON PREVIEW



# BALL IN THEIR COURT



Elon University junior and guard Ariel Colón makes a fast break against the Winston-Salem State University Rams in Schar Center on Tuesday, Nov. 5. The Phoenix won 77-48.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After a down year, Elon's women's basketball team plans to return to form

**Colby Cook**  
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

A new basketball season is upon us, and the Elon University Phoenix women's team look to hit the ground running. The quest for a winning season and third NCAA tournament berth in four years has gotten off to a stunning start for North Carolina coaching legend Charlotte Smith. This 2019-2020 season started with a match-up against Western Carolina University and a thrilling overtime victory against Appalachian State University.

Elon's victory helped Smith notch her 150th career win as a head coach. Two solid wins over former Southern Conference rivals, as well as several solid tests for the non-conference slate before beginning Colonial Athletic Association play, look to position the Phoenix for success.

Smith is in her ninth year of coaching the Phoenix, despite speculation in the offseason that she would leave Elon for her alma mater, the University of North Carolina Tar Heels, to succeed the recently retired coaching legend Sylvia Hatchell. Smith played for Hatchell from 1991-1995. Smith hit the game-winning three-pointer for the Tar Heels against Louisiana Tech University to net their only championship to date.

After spending 2002-2011 as an assistant coach for the Heels, Smith took over as the head coach for the Phoenix in 2011.

Abbey Lipcsik, the women's basketball assistant director of athletics communications, did not respond to Elon News Network's requests to interview Smith or any players on the team for this story.

Smith has led the Elon program to a Women's Basketball Invitational Tournament and two Women's National Invitational Tournament appearances and back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances in 2017 and 2018. She said she looks to return to the NCAA tournament with a talented roster that is young and still continuing to grow. The roster is stacked with young talent for

the Phoenix, as it doesn't have any seniors on the squad.

Redshirt junior guard Jada Graves looks to break out this season for Elon, as she only played one game last season for the Phoenix due to a torn ACL. Sophomore guard Brie Perpignan will run a very fast-paced game at the point, as Elon will excel in the run game this season.

The freshman class looks to add depth and balance to the roster. The three-person class brings a guard and two forwards to a young Phoenix squad. Guard Vanessa Taylor is from Sweden, where she played basketball at Hagagymnasiet high school and debuted for the Swedish women's professional league at age 15.

Forward Maya Johnson hails from Southeast Raleigh High School, where she helped the team make three state championship appearances. Forward Teylah Saunders, from Pikesville High School in Pikesville, Maryland, helped lead her team to a 1-A state championship in the 2018-19 season, and was selected for the all-state second team as a senior. She was named the defensive player of the year for Pikesville during her junior season and the team's most valuable player in 2017.

The Phoenix picked up right where it left off with their defensive tenacity, as well as a balanced offensive attack, scoring in the paint along with a steady line of shots from the perimeter by talented forwards.

The Phoenix started the regular season strong with a strong victory over the Western Carolina Catamounts 68-24 in Schar Center. The team dominated in multiple facets, outscoring WCU 26 to 12 in the paint, 25 to 8 in points off turnovers and 33 to 5 in points off the bench. Jada Graves led the balanced scoring effort for the Phoenix with 12 points. The Phoenix dominated the boards with 45 rebounds.

Elon followed with a much more competitive game against Appalachian State. The result was a thrilling narrow victory by a one-point margin in overtime with a score of 67 to 66.

Junior forward Jaylin Powell starred for the Phoenix with 19 points, going 7 for 21 from the field with two three pointers. Powell also secured the deciding point with a free throw.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Middle: Elon University redshirt sophomore guard Ariana Nance fakes out the Winston-Salem defender in Schar Center on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Bottom right: Elon University junior and guard Saadia Munford shoots a free throw in Schar Center on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 9-21

was Elon University's women's basketball season record last season.

The Phoenix will be challenged this season with a very tough schedule.

They draw three Atlantic Coast Conference programs in Wake Forest University, UNC and North Carolina State University, as well as tough opponents in the University of Nevada Las Vegas Lady Rebel Roundup in Las Vegas at the end of November.

The Phoenix will also take on Coastal Carolina University out of the Sun Belt Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The CAA slate starts with a bang against defending champion Towson University, where the Phoenix lost a heartbreaker 59 to 58 last season in late January.

Elon looks for a bounce-back win against the Hofstra University Pride, who knocked them out of the CAA tournament last season, beating the Phoenix 77 to 75 on Jan. 19.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



# CHANGING OF THE GUARD



ELON NEWS NETWORK FILE PHOTO

Then-freshman and guard Brie Perpignan plays against the University of North Carolina at

Sophomores on women’s basketball team take on new leadership roles

Carter Horan  
Elon News Network | @carterhoran

Despite only being sophomores, Brie Perpignan and Kayla Liles have the composure of veteran seniors on the basketball court. This year, the team is composed of nine underclassmen and four juniors and one redshirt junior, a similar group to last year’s young cohort.

Perpignan’s goal for this season is “to be more consistent.” Last year the Phoenix finished 9-21 with only four conference wins, the worst record for them in the past decade. And with two NCAA tournament bids in that time period, the expectations are always high for the Phoenix. But with new freshmen ready to make an impact, combined with their strong leadership, Elon is ready to take the next step.

A year ago, point guard Perpignan was third on the team in minutes at an impressive 25 MPG, playing in all 30 games. She averaged 8.9 PPG and 2.4 APG, making her the Phoenix’s third leading scorer and assist leader. On defense, Perpignan was second with 10 blocks and 31 steals in total, all while being the shortest starter.

Abbey Lipsik, the women’s basketball assistant director of athletics communications, neglected to respond to Elon News Network’s requests to interview Perpignan or any members of the team for this story.

The 5-foot-7 Virginia native has scored 29 total points in her first three games of the 2019-20 season while leading the team in minutes played. She’s a commanding force of the Phoenix offense and has brought the fire on defense. Perpignan has the responsibility of leading her team, along with typically guarding one of the opponent’s best players. On defense, she picked up three steals in each of her first two games and is always on the floor hustling for loose balls.

Using her smaller frame,



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore guard Kayla Liles plays against Winston-Salem State University on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Perpignan is able to weave around defenders in order to create scoring opportunities. Elon’s offense is based around setting screens to get her toward the basket.

Her composure with the ball mimics one of the guards who recently graduated from Elon — Shay Burnett, a four-year starter and 1,500-point scorer who is now playing professionally in Sweden. Both Burnett and Perpignan were given big roles early on in their college careers, which helped Shay become more experienced before the team played on bigger stages. Based on Perpignan’s growth, Phoenix fans are in store for a great future with #0.

Last week against Appalachian State University, Elon trailed by more than 20 points in the first half. Yet in the second half, Perpignan snatched two steals, scored five points and added a pair of assists to junior and forward Jaylin Powell, propelling the game into overtime. Despite the long odds, Perpignan and the Phoenix found a way to battle back,

eventually winning the game.

Looking ahead to Friday, Nov. 22, the Phoenix will face ACC powerhouse North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Last year, Elon fell 100-69 and Perpignan struggled, with five points and four turnovers in 20 minutes. North Carolina has won every game this season by 30 or more points, but Elon is bound to put up a better fight than their previous opponents. Perpignan is set to face North Carolina’s best player — 6-foot-2 senior guard Taylor Koenan.

On the wing, the Phoenix have an aggressive guard looks to make plays in Kayla Liles. The sophomore started 11 games last year as a freshman, finishing with double-digit scoring in seven. Originally from Maryland, Liles plays with passion and emotion, taking charges on defense and encouraging her teammates during timeouts.

Liles’ quick crossover disrupts defenses and creates space on offense. She’s versatile for being able to drive and shoot the ball

BY THE NUMBERS

29

is the number of combined points Brie Perpignan has scored in her first three games this season.

11

is number of games sophomore Kayla Liles started in last year.

7

is the number of games Kayla Liles finished with double-digit scoring last year.

at a high level, and her length on defense allows her to get her hands in passing lanes and put pressure on the opponent’s offense. Standing at only 5-foot-10, she impresses with her ability to grab rebounds on both offense and defense. Against Marist, Liles led the team in rebounds with a total of nine, three of which were offensive.

When one player is struggling, the other is willing to step up; that’s what makes Perpignan and Liles an effective team. In Sunday’s loss against Marist, Perpignan had trouble finding the net on offense. In her 30 minutes on the floor, she shot 2/10 from the field with a season-low five points. But when she cooled off, Liles began to heat up, shooting 5 for 11 with three free-throws, scoring a team-high 13 points.

Although they lost the game, Liles proved she could step up in a situation where Perpignan needed her to. The sophomore duo have proven themselves, and with a larger role on this year’s team, they’re poised for success.



NOVEMBER

11/5 W   L	MARS HILL UNIVERSITY 7:30 PM
11/8 W   L	MILLIGAN COLLEGE 7:00 PM
11/23 W   L	MANHATTAN COLLEGE 4:00 PM

11/26 W   L	FURMAN UNIVERSITY 7:00 PM
11/28 W   L	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ARLINGTON 12:00 PM

DECEMBER

12/2 W   L	KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY 7:00 PM
12/14 W   L	NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY 1:30 PM
12/30 W   L	COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY 7:00 PM

2019-2020 BASKET



ANDY PACK

ARIEL COLÓN

KRIS WOOTEN

NOVEMBER

11/9 W   L	WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY 7:30 PM
11/13 W   L	APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY 7:00 PM
11/25 W   L	WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY 7:00 PM

JANUARY

1/10 W   L	COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON 7:00 PM
1/12 W   L	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON 2:00 PM
1/24 W   L	DREXEL UNIVERSITY 7:00 PM

1/11 W   L
1/13 W   L



N'S

JANUARY

1/9  
W | L

COLLEGE OF  
CHARLESTON  
7:00 PM

1/11  
W | L

UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTH CAROLINA  
WILMINGTON  
4:00 PM

1/23  
W | L

TOWSON  
UNIVERSITY  
7:00 PM

1/25  
W | L

JAMES MADISON  
UNIVERSITY  
4:00 PM

1/30  
W | L

HOFSTRA  
UNIVERSITY  
7:00 PM

FEBRUARY

2/1  
W | L

NORTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY  
4:00 PM

2/13  
W | L

UNIVERSITY OF  
DELAWARE  
7:00 PM

2/15  
W | L

DREXEL  
UNIVERSITY  
4:00 PM

TBALL AT HOME

IN  
SCHAR  
CENTER



EN'S

FEBRUARY

/26  
W | L

UNIVERSITY OF  
DELAWARE  
2:00 PM

/31  
W | L

COLLEGE OF  
WILLIAM & MARY  
7:00 PM

2/14  
W | L

HOFSTRA  
UNIVERSITY  
7:00 PM

2/16  
W | L

NORTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY  
1:00 PM

MARCH

3/5  
W | L

JAMES MADISON  
UNIVERSITY  
7:00 PM

3/7  
W | L

TOWSON  
UNIVERSITY  
2:00 PM



# NEW FACES OF MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men's basketball starting lineup features three new members in headcoach's first year

**Jon Sarver Jr.**  
Elon News Network| @sarver\_jon

Mike Schrage took over as the new head coach for Elon University's men's basketball team last April — marking the beginning of a series of changes to the team, as he started recruiting new members to the Phoenix.

"You get the job in April and you have potentially five scholarships, and [I'm] really excited about all the freshmen that decided to join us," Schrage said. "They have such bright

futures, and will be such a big part of what we're doing now and going forward. I think everyone can see that already."

With four games played in the 2019-2020 season, the Phoenix are 2-2. The starting lineup features three new additions to the team: Graduate transfer guard/forward Marcus Sheffield II, freshman guard Hunter McIntosh, and freshman guard/forward Hunter Woods.

The season is still in its early stages, but the young team will face their toughest opponent yet. Elon will take on the number five ranked University of North Carolina Chapel Hill on Wednesday, Nov. 20. The game will be in Chapel Hill, and is expected to start at 8:30 p.m.

## MARCUS SHEFFIELD #4

**S**HEFFIELD BRINGS VETERAN EXPERIENCE to the Phoenix. Before coming to Elon, he spent four years at Stanford University. As a Stanford Cardinal, Sheffield averaged just over six points per game in 86 games across three seasons. According to Stanford University Athletics' website, Sheffield sat out his junior year due to a leg injury.

"It was a great experience at Stanford. Just my experience of plenty of good competition every day in practice," Sheffield said. "The games are always peak competition in the PAC 12. So, I think, just good competition prepared me for Elon."

Sheffield's experience in the PAC 12 appears to be paying off. In his first four games with Elon, Sheffield is averaging over 17 points per game, and scored 22 points against the

University of Michigan on Nov. 15.

Schrage also talked about the presence that Sheffield brings to the rest of the team.

"He just stabilizes us because he's played at a really high level and competed at a high level. He gives the guys confidence that we have him on the court," Schrage said.

Sheffield was not totally unfamiliar with the coaching staff. Sheffield and Schrage both knew each other from their time at Stanford. When Sheffield was a freshman in 2016, Schrage was an assistant coach for the Cardinal. Sheffield said their previous relationship played a role in deciding on which school to transfer to.

"That was big for me when I decided to leave Stanford — to play for somebody [I] already had a relationship with and I definitely had a relationship with Schrage. So that kind of brought me to Elon," Sheffield said.



## HUNTER WOODS #25

**H**UNTER WOODS IS ONE of the two freshmen that has appeared as a starter in all four games this season.

Getting experience and hearing that he was going to be a starter this early in his career was exciting for Woods.

"I was very excited," Woods said. "I just want to continue to get better every day. So that's the ultimate goal. Just getting better as a team and as a player."

While Woods and fellow freshman Hunter McIntosh have started all four regular season games, Schrage said that he does not guarantee that new players will get that chance. But he also said he is not shocked about them earning playing time in their first year.

"I would never recruit a young man and

say 'you're gonna play these many minutes,' you know, 'you're going to start.' There are no guarantees," Schrage said. "But I knew they'd have the chance to compete and play."

In the first part of the season, Woods had produced on the defensive side of the ball. In his first game against Mars Hill, Woods hauled in nine rebounds.

He also has three steals in the season. Woods said that he wants to continue to improve, but he also talked about gaining experience with his classmates.

"It's going to be big time for us in the long run because coach is throwing us in the fire early," Woods said. "So, at the end of the day, we're going to be growing together and we're going to have a great four years here."



## HUNTER MCINTOSH #0

**M**CINTOSH COMES INTO THE year as one of two freshmen that have started each of the first four games.

In his collegiate debut, the Georgia native racked up 16 points against Mars Hill University, and has averaged nearly 10 points a game so far this year.

With a few games under his belt, McIntosh talked about his experience of finally playing at the college level.

"It's definitely exciting. This is something you think about for a long time but then finally being here and being immersed in it," McIntosh said. "Obviously four games is just a small taste of it, but I think I've gained some valuable experience over these first four games."

McIntosh said it was exciting to get a chance

to start so early in his career, and talked about his role as a freshman point guard.

"My role is, one, just be whatever the team needs me," McIntosh said. "Right now, running the team, I've been kind of asked to shoot and score early, but also just being a great facilitator, being a great vocal leader."

With players like McIntosh and Woods getting experience early on in their collegiate careers, Schrage said that they have shown maturity.

"They're not afraid of the moment. They're not afraid to compete. They're not they're not acting like freshmen," Schrage said. "They're willing and ready to make plays. And even in these environments we played most recently at Georgia Tech, at Michigan, they're not overwhelmed by the moment by any means."







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# SAFETY IN SCHRAGE

Men's basketball head coach aims to make steady improvements for the team

Caitlin Rundle

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After six schools and 25 years of coaching experience, Elon University's new men's basketball coach, Mike Schrage, has stepped into his first head coaching job here at Elon.

Schrage and his family made the move to North Carolina after two years as an assistant head coach with The Ohio State University Buckeyes.

In his two years there, Schrage and the team made it to the NCAA Championship Tournament twice, but fell short in the second round both times. The experience of making it to "March Madness," as it has been popularized, is still something that Schrage said he would never take back.

Schrage said as exciting as March Madness is for fans on TV, "it's even better when you're living [it] in person."

According to Schrage, his time in the tournament was one of the things that persuaded him to accept the challenge of coaching at Elon, a school that has never made an appearance.

"Elon wants to make the step to be an NCAA tournament team," Schrage said. "There's no better feeling than doing that and I can only imagine the feeling of doing that a place where hasn't been done before."

Schrage said he and his team aren't looking too far ahead in setting lofty goals. But in the back of his mind, Schrage said he's thinking of tournament play and getting the men's basketball team on the championship banner.

"Obviously I would love to be the head coach to take Elon to a height it's never been before with the NCAA Tournament," Schrage said. "Right now, it's about building this program with a new staff and just getting better every day and building standards and family."

Schrage has been creating his standards for players, starting with his experience coaching at Duke University. From 1999 to 2002, he was the academic and recruiting



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Elon University men's basketball head coach Mike Schrage makes a game plan during the team's practice in Schar Center on Monday, Nov. 18 in preparation for the Phoenix's game against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

coordinator until he became the director of basketball operations. With this title, he assisted the team with recruitment along with his other operation duties.

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I SAID, 'HEY, WE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON. YOU CHOSE ELON, I'M CHOOSING ELON NOW, BUT NOW ELON CHOSE US.

MIKE SCHRAGE  
HEAD COACH

Schrage continued coaching at Stanford University, where he was an assistant coach there from 2008 to 2016. With this title, Schrage still found himself dealing heavily with recruitment.

Over time, Schrage narrowed down the values he looks for in recruiting. He honed in on these

values with this years' recruitment class with the opening of five scholarship spots.

"We can't just recruit anybody," Schrage said. "They got to not just [be] good students, but great students, they need to have high standards, they need to do everything they represent."

Schrage also said that above anything else, he wants to establish trust with the team so he can feel more at ease.

"I want to trust the young men that we've recruited and continue to mentor and say, 'Hey, they're going to make the right decisions when they're here,'" Schrage said. "They need to understand that they're putting their signature on everything they do, every decision they make. Once they're here, it reflects on them, reflects on us, reflects our programs and their family back at home."

In his previous jobs, Schrage said he never even thought about pursuing a head coaching job until the position at Elon was presented to him. Schrage said the process started smoothly because of Athletic Director Dave Blank's familiarity with him.

"It moved pretty fast. [Ohio State] was in the NCAA Tournament when

we initially had contact and once we got eliminated in the second round, it moved faster because it's hard when you're immersed with your own team," Schrage said.

Schrage said his visit to campus made the process go faster, and he knew the job was for him.

"When I came, I was blown away by the campus but was really blown away by the Schar Center too," Schrage said. "I remember calling back to Ohio State and being like, 'Hey, I'm getting this job. I'm sorry, but this is perfect.'"

When Schrage found out he had been offered the job, he said he tried to call his wife to share the news, but couldn't contact her right away. He said he remembered feeling the pure euphoria of it all.

The move from Ohio to North Carolina brought back some familiarity for Schrage and his family.

In his time at Duke, the family had lived in Durham, North Carolina, but he said his kids were probably too young to remember that time. It also wasn't the first time the family moved to follow Schrage's position. Of the total eight schools that Schrage has worked in, four of them were in completely different states.

Above: Men's basketball coach Mike Schrage observes his team practicing from the sidelines in Schar Center on Monday, Nov. 18.

"It's not easy on the family ever, especially at the age my children are because they develop great friendships and relationships wherever they've been," Schrage said. "They've been great and they understand my passion. They knew how much my wife and I loved it so they were pretty excited."

After finally contacting his wife and telling his family about their eventual move, Schrage made the seven hour drive from Ohio to North Carolina to meet the team the Sunday before his first press conference.

"I wanted them to know how excited I was to get to know them and to be at Elon," Schrage said about his first encounter with the team. "I said, 'Hey, we have something in common. You chose Elon, I'm choosing Elon now, but now Elon chose us.'"

Schrage said he wanted the team to feel comfortable with him right away, so he focused on the one-on-one personal connections with the players first.

He said he wanted to set up the individual meetings early just to get to know them as people and their expectations.

This year, Schrage said he is focusing on the foundation of the team. He said his dreams for the team will start one day at a time, with one player at a time, making one play at a time.

Though the process may be long, and the team may not always come out of games with a win, Schrage said he wants Elon to trust his process.

"It's all about having a growth mindset, just getting better every day. I'm just proud to be here," Schrage said. "Elon just gets keeps getting better and better and I love the vision that they have."

Schrage said he recognizes Elon's vision for growth, and he asks the community to, "Please know, I'm bringing that vision as best I can to the basketball program specifically."





# 2019-2020